*Lancashire and Yorkshire Junction Railway.*—This line is projected to connect the Blackburn and Preston Railway with the Leeds and Bradford Railway, passing through or near the several towns of Blackburn, Church, Accrington, Whalley, Clitheroe, Padiham, Burnley, Colne, Skipton, Keighley, Bingley, Shipley, and Bradford, forming a continuous line from the port of Hull on the east coast, to the ports of Liverpool and Fleetwood on the west coast, with a branch at Accrington, through the town of Haslingden, to the Manchester, Bury, and Rossendale Railway—forming a direct communication with the town of Manchester. The length of railway to be made, including the branch at Accrington, will be about forty-five miles. A branch to Skipton is also suggested. Sir George Strickland, Bart., M. P., Sir C. R. Tempest, Bart., R. Townley Parker, Esq., C. Royds, Esq., M. Wilson, jun., Esq., and other gentlemen interested in the district through which the line will pass, are members of the Provisional Committee. — *Railway Record.*

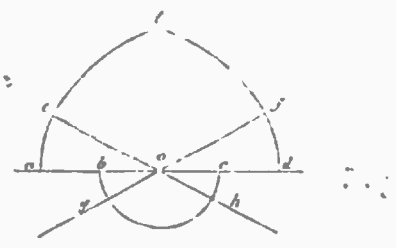
*York and Scarborough Railway.*—On Wednesday week the directors of the York and North Midland Railway held a meeting at the board-room, to receive tenders for the making of 44 miles of the Scarborough Railway and branch to Pickering. The work was divided into four sections, but the directors accepted the tender of Mr. Crawshay, who tendered for the execution of the whole distance. The contractor's tender is under the engineer's estimate, and fully justifies Mr. Hudson's statement as to the cost of the line.

A petition from the Hull and Selby Railway Company against the Government Railways Bill was presented to the lower House on Thursday week. The York and North Midland and the Manchester and Leeds Railway Companies have also petitioned against the Bill.

The Leeds and Bradford (valley line) Railway received the royal assent on Thursday week. The line will, it is expected, be completed within two years.

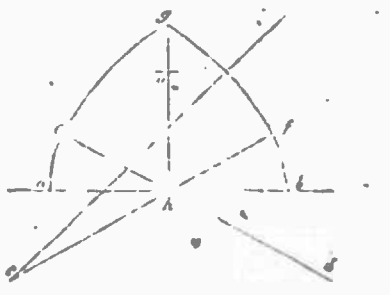
## ARCHITECTURAL GEOMETRY, No. VII.—TUDOR ARCHES.

SIR,—Having seen in THE BUILDER several articles upon Architectural Geometry, I myself send to you some sketches for three-centred arches. First example, of which the span



only is given. The line *a d* is divided into four parts; from the centre *o*, describe the arc *b c*; from *a* set off the distance *a e*, equal to *a b*; draw *e o* to *h*; then *h g a* will be the three centres for describing the required arch.

Second example, *when the height and span of the arc are both given.* Divide *a b* as



before; with *a* as a centre, and one-fourth of *a b* as a radius, mark off *e*; draw a line from *e* through *h* to *d*; produce a line from *f h* to *c*; let the given height be *g*; bisect *g f*; let the bisecting line cut *f h* at *c*. Then, with *c* as a centre, describe *f g*; with *h* as a centre, describe *b f* and *a e*, &c.

A. K.

Spalding, June 5, 1844.

## THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.

THIS edifice is rapidly approaching completion, and at present no obstacle is apprehended that will delay its being opened beyond the early part of September. The Gresham committee have not as yet appointed the day, although preparations are going on to celebrate the event, so as to render the ceremony of an imposing and interesting character, it being clearly understood that her Majesty, accompanied by her august consort, will honour the city of London by opening it in person. The exact arrangements have not been as yet determined; it is, however, known that a grand banquet will be served in a spacious pavilion erected in the area, and that the whole proceedings will be conducted in an unusual degree of splendour, well becoming the opening of the most important commercial building in the country. At the recent meetings of the committee some alterations have been arranged, the original intention being that it should be free from all decorative and sculptural embellishments. In the centre of the quadrangle will be raised a marble statue of the Queen. For this work her Majesty has been pleased to name Mr. Lough, the sculptor. The committee have allowed 1,100*l.* for the execution of statues. A new statue of Sir Thomas Gresham has also been decided on. It will be 15 feet in height, chiseled out of Portland stone by Mr. Behnes, at a cost of 550*l.*, and when completed will be placed in the niche at the eastern end of the Exchange, immediately under the tower. The old statue of the wealthy founder, that withstood the ravages of the fire at the burning of the former Exchange, has been preserved, and will be erected in another part of the building. New statues of Sir Thomas Whittington and Sir Hugh Myddelton will also decorate the area—the artist selected for the former being Mr. Joseph, at a cost of 450*l.*; and the latter, Mr. Crewe, at a cost of 430*l.*, who has also been appointed to execute the Royal arms for the western entrance.

The ground between the eastern front of the new Royal Exchange, at the rear of the houses in Finch-lane, is being now built upon by direction of the trustees of Magdalen College, to whom the property belongs. There will be a line of houses from Cornhill to Threadneedle-street, for which purpose the church of St. Benet Fink, it is stated, will be pulled down, the living of which, it is said, will be transferred to a church which will be erected on the site of what was formerly Cripplegate Workhouse, Moor-lane. In excavating for the foundation of the new houses, at a depth of about 12 feet, a large quantity of common Roman and of Roman tesellated pavement was found.

## Correspondence.

### SHAM COMPETITION.—DERBY PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM.

SIR,—I was much amused at the letter contained in No. 73 of THE BUILDER, on the subject of the Lunatic Asylum competition at Derby; it (the letter) reminding one so very strongly of the old fable of "The Ass in the Lion's skin." We are told by Æsop that the long-eared simpleton, having disguised himself in the skin of one of the kings of the forest, carried all before him, until, wishing to boast of his success, and almost forgetting, in his new-born grandeur, the manner in which he had, as yet unchallenged, borne the palm, opened his unlucky jaws to roar, when "lo!" a violent braying was all that escaped his lips, and thus he betrayed himself a cheat.

I have until now remained quiet, in order that I might the better observe the proceedings of those most interested in the matter; but as I do not see in any of the letters on the subject points or facts as strong as I myself am in possession of for believing the competition to have been a mist thrown over the deeds of those who, from the position they occupy in the land, should be ——; but of what use will it be for me to say what they should be?—suffice it to say, that what they should be they are not.

The list of the magistrates of Derby contains names of some of our high nobility, members of wealthy men, men known for their honest works—they number in all about 113: of these, about half-a-dozen attended at the meeting of the committee on the occasion of selecting the plans.

Some friends of mine who competed among the rest, I know produced a plan not without merit—indeed, so good, that a learned physician, the first authority on such a subject, having inspected it, pronounced his decided opinion of its perfection in every respect for the purposes of an asylum for the reception of the insane.

Immediately after the plans were delivered, a pamphlet on the subject of lunatic asylums appeared from the pen of Dr. Brigstock, a gentleman residing at Derby, and who keeps a private mad-house in Green-lane; the idea suggested in this pamphlet was, that all the chambers should be upon the ground-floor, and the disposition of the buildings resembled that of a barrack, a number of detached wards connected to each other, to the chapel, to the kitchen, and to the superintendent's house, by long covered passages, but altogether extending over so much ground, that the idea became preposterous.

A competitor, who was exhibiting a radiating plan for the proposed asylum, called on the author of this pamphlet, and having presented him with a sketch of his design, he was much astonished at the instant remark of the doctor, "Oh, the committee has decided to reject at once all radiating plans; at least, so I am informed by the mayor." The truth of this observation was afterwards proved by the result of the committee's award of the premiums.

At this time the plans had not been seen.

I had an opportunity of inspecting with my friend the whole of the plans, and he remarked to me that two sets of drawings were distinguished by the same mark, viz., a seal bearing a coat of arms; to make sure of this, he examined and compared minutely the two seals, when he found that while the crest on the one (on the drawings also bearing the motto "Curator") was a bull's head rising from out a ducal coronet, the other was the head of an unicorn or horse, although at first sight very similar to the other.

The committee met twice, perhaps thrice, for a few minutes at each time. My friend called on Mr. Barber, the mayor, to know whether it was probable that the matter would soon be settled, but having been informed by that gentleman that it was likely that a fortnight might elapse before the decision was come to, he departed.

At this very moment the decision was already made; no more meetings of the committee took place, the committee having previously selected the design of Mr. Duesbury. A few days after this, my unlucky friend received a letter from the mayor to say that his drawing, not being successful, would be sent to him by rail, &c. &c. Yes, the letter was addressed to him by name, his sealed letter having been actually broken open, by what authority I know not.

The letter is sealed, and at first my friend thinks it a letter from "Curator," for it is sealed with the impression of the bull's head, with arms, as before seen on "Curator's" drawings; but no, it is from the mayor of Derby.

How easy is it to select from a multitude of designs.

The watchword is—The bull's head; the answer—"Curator."

When unanimously adopted by the committee (of half-a-dozen), without even a division on the subject—so great was the superiority of the Bull's-head plan—on examination it was found that the drawings were distinguished by the motto "Curator;" and upon opening the sealed letter bearing the like distinguishing motto, to the astonishment of *all* present, they find it to contain the name of their old friend "Henry Duesbury," of Town Hall notoriety.

There were eighty sets of drawings exhibited, and I am told that on the average, each set must have cost 50*l.*; at that rate 4,000*l.* must have been expended in their preparation.

Trusting that you will not deny insertion to these remarks, and apologizing for thus long intruding upon your valuable time,

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Derby, July 20. A TOWNSMAN.

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